

For this and more, we honor Stephanie Carrizales.

HONORING D.C.'s 2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating three District of Columbia schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

For the past 39 years, the Department of Education has recognized schools for overall academic excellence or for reducing achievement gaps. Since 1982, over 40 schools in the District have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools. This year, BASIS DC Public Charter School, Eaton Elementary School and Lafayette Elementary School were selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

BASIS DC Public Charter School, located in downtown near the Smithsonian museums, was established in 2012 and serves 640 students in grades 5–12. BASIS DC's school mascot is the Red Giants. Students at BASIS are proactive in attaining college scholarships. The total amount of college gift aid earned by the Class of 2017 was over \$700,000. I applaud BASIS DC and its students for securing scholarships for college education and for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Located in Cleveland Park, Eaton Elementary School strives to provide a culturally enriching education for its diverse student body. Established in 1910, Eaton Elementary serves 467 students in grades PK–5. Partnering with the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., Eaton Elementary created its Student Sleuth Program, which allowed fourth-grade students to learn grass-roots research in investigating their school's history. I applaud Eaton Elementary School for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Lafayette Elementary School, located in Chevy Chase, serves 940 students in grades PK–5. Lafayette Elementary was established in 1928 and emphasizes the importance of integrating the arts into all subject areas to enrich their students' learning experiences. I applaud Lafayette Elementary School for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating BASIS DC Public Charter School, Eaton Elementary School and Lafayette Elementary School for their recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GARY STAMPER

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Southwest Washington resident and Lewis County Com-

missioner, Gary Stamper. Gary sadly passed away last week at the age of 67 after fighting a battle with COVID–19.

Gary went to school and graduated from Mossyrock High School, and eventually earned a Master's in School Administration from Heritage University.

For years, Gary devoted his life to public education—working as a principal, teacher, and coach in East Lewis county. He truly cared about his students succeeding in all aspects of life. One of his most memorable achievements was leading the Mossyrock Girls Basketball team to a state championship. Since his passing, there has been an outpouring of support from former students talking about Gary; not only as a principal, teacher, coach, but as a mentor, a role model and supporter at times in their lives when they most needed it.

It was his strong commitment to the rural communities in Lewis County for which so many people know him. Following his retirement from public education in 2014, Gary continued to serve his community as a Lewis County Commissioner.

If it was an issue that mattered to small businesses, to schools, to families or to the surrounding forests, Gary knew about it and he was a most effective advocate for it. I cherish deeply my work alongside Gary. We lost a great leader.

I'm extending my thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies to Gary's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING TERESA ANN RODRIGUEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Teresa Rodríguez. Teresa is one of the many northern transplants who now call Central Florida home. A native New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent, she arrived in Orlando in 2012. After two years of working in the tourism industry, she now works at the University of Central Florida. Her time there has afforded her the opportunity to assist and create outreach efforts for Hispanic and other diverse communities in Orlando.

Having received her bachelor's degree in Spanish from Brooklyn College at the City University of New York, she put her bilingual skills to good use and worked with the City of Orlando's "Hispanic Office for Local Assistance" to establish and maintain free English classes. She served as the point of contact, advocate, and administrator for the university-wide Latin American-Caribbean scholarship initiative, the Hurricane Maria Disaster Recovery Program, and the Venezuela Assistance Program at the English Language Institute. She also assisted in running the Hurricane Dorian Disaster Recovery Tuition Assistance Program.

Teresa was a selection committee member and helped process non-resident alien tuition emergency funds assistance via a hardship waiver program. She also helped coordinate efforts between several partners and newly ar-

rived Central Florida non-English speaking community members to help them acquire Florida state licenses. Teresa remains affiliated to and volunteers for the Puerto Rico Research Hub at UCF.

For this and more, we honor Teresa Rodríguez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. C.D. "DAN" MOTE, JR., FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Dr. C.D. "Dan" Mote, Jr., who served as President of the University of Maryland, College Park, from 1998 to 2010, in recognition of his contributions to the school's legacy of academic excellence.

Dr. Mote came to Maryland in 1998 after spending three decades at the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied dynamics systems and biomechanics and led the top-ranked graduate mechanical engineering program in the country. His research on gyroscopic systems and the biomechanics of snow skiing has been internationally recognized. He holds patents in four countries and has been published more than 300 times.

His leadership, both as an educator and in the field of biomechanics, has had global impact; he truly lives up to his motto: Excellence in All We Do.

At the University of Maryland, Dr. Mote worked to make education more affordable and inclusive by expanding access to financial aid programs, including the Maryland Incentive Awards, the Pathways program, and the Keep Me Maryland fund. One of his primary goals was closing the graduation gap for underrepresented minority students. His work was reflected in the achievements of Maryland students throughout his tenure.

Under Dr. Mote's leadership, the university received a record number of highly qualified applicants. He was committed to bringing in academically-committed students and giving them as many opportunities as possible to succeed. He tripled the number of students participating in study-abroad programs, provided new opportunities to enroll in courses outside of major requirements, and increased research funding more than 150 percent.

On October 10, the Maryland Incentive Awards Program and an Engineering Research Laboratory at the university will be named in Dr. Mote's honor. This recognition is well-deserved, and I join the University of Maryland, College Park, in saluting Dr. Mote's lifelong commitment to expanding academic opportunity and ensuring our state's flagship public university continues to excel. His legacy of excellence is visible each day at the University of Maryland, College Park, and his impact will be felt for decades to come.

I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Dr. Mote on an illustrious career and in thanking him for all he did for Maryland students over his twelve-year tenure and throughout his life in academia.